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# **Evolution of the US Government Configuration Baseline (USGCB)**

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# Agenda

- Genesis of the USGCB
- Recent Activities
- Agency Expectations
- Future Directions
- Questions & Answers



## Before there was USGCB...there was FDCC

- March 22, 2007: OMB issues M-07-11, “Implementation of Commonly Accepted Security Configurations for Windows Operating Systems”
  - ⊙ Required agencies to adopt Windows XP and Vista security configurations defined by NIST (SP 800-68)
- June 1, 2007: OMB issues M-07-18, “Ensuring New Acquisitions Include Common Security Configurations”
  - ⊙ Provided recommended procurement language
  - ⊙ First official reference to Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC)
- July 31, 2007: Availability of First FDCC Virtual PC (VPC) images from NIST
- June 16, 2008: FDCC considered “final”



## FDCC Change Control

- With finalization of FDCC in June 2008, ownership of that security configuration and change control was transferred to the Architecture and Infrastructure Committee (AIC) of the Federal CIO Council.
- The Technology Infrastructure Subcommittee (TIS) of the AIC was formed to govern FDCC
- The TIS established the FDCC Change Control Board (FDCC CCB)
- Version 1.0 of the FDCC CCB Concept of Operations finalized by the TIS on June 9, 2009



# FDCC CCB Concept of Operations

- Roles for the FDCC CCB:
  - ⊙ Consideration of individual change requests submitted by stakeholders
  - ⊙ Consideration of strategic and tactical issues such as developing FDCC standards for platforms other than Windows XP or Vista (e.g. Windows 7, Mac OS X)
  - ⊙ Initial focus for additional platforms on Windows 7, given October 2009 release date
  - ⊙ Coordination with NIST to formally request changes to FDCC configurations
- Annual recommendations will be provided to NIST by June 30
  - ⊙ NIST will follow process defined in SP 800-70 to consider the recommendations
  - ⊙ Target October 1 of each year for NIST to formally issue updated configurations
  - ⊙ First annual update expected October 1, 2010



## And then...

- May 7, 2010: AIC co-chairs issue memo regarding Windows 7 and Internet Explorer 8
  - ⦿ Introduces US Government Configuration Baseline (USGCB) as a replacement for FDCC
  - ⦿ Memo is available at:  
[http://www.cio.gov/Documents/USGCB\\_Win7IE8\\_announcement\\_final.pdf](http://www.cio.gov/Documents/USGCB_Win7IE8_announcement_final.pdf)
- USGCB (formerly FDCC) CCB begins efforts to finalize USGCB, in collaboration with DoD, DHS, DOI, NIST, EPA and others
- September 24, 2010: USGCB Version 1.0 is released by NIST (<http://usgcb.nist.gov>)



## USGCB Key Features

- The USGCB is a baseline for Windows 7 and IE 8 that agencies can build upon
- Not just about security anymore
- Includes power management settings to save energy, money, help to protect the environment and to support compliance with Executive Orders 13423 and 13514
- Includes “Conditional” settings (e.g. IPv6 and wireless) in recognition that these will only be applicable to some agencies



## Agency Responsibilities

- Implement the USGCB settings to achieve a more secure and environmentally aware computing environment
- Fully test prior to deploying USGCB to operational Windows 7 machines
- Document and track any changes to USGCB settings including more restrictive configurations as required to meet site-specific needs
- Include the application of these settings as part of a comprehensive, well-structured security program.
- Continue to comply with existing mandates including configuration settings, acquisition, and reporting.



## Next Steps

- Annual Review of Settings
  - ⊙ “Business as Usual”
- Additional Platforms
  - ⊙ Mac OS X
  - ⊙ Linux
  - ⊙ Others?
- October 2011 is target for next release(s)



# Questions?

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